



Borislav POPOV (Blagoevgrad)

**MEANING AND INTERPRETATION OF THE SACRED TETRAGRAMMATON
(FROM THE JUDAISM AND SEPTUAGINT TO THE OLD BULGARIAN,
CHURCH SLAVONIC AND NEW BULGARIAN TRANSLATIONS
OF THE OLD TESTAMENT)**

Abstract: The research explores the problems stemming from the mystery of the sacred tetragrammaton, its etymology and some interpretation of its meaning in the Judaism. Its major variants in the transmission of the tetragrammaton in the Old Bulgarian and Old Slavic traditions, as well as in the Church Slavonic and Modern Bulgarian translations of the Old Testament, have been placed under consideration and analyzed. Despite certain grammatical and semantic inconsistencies with the original Hebrew text, the semantics of the tetragrammaton has been largely reflected and preserved in the translations et the essence of God's name encoded originally in the Ancient Hebrew text, and later in the Septuagint. The discrepancies in the translations are due to the specificity in the grammatical (verb) system of Hebrew, which is not found in the ancient Greek and in the Slavic languages, i.e. the reason is the interlinguistic asymmetry.

Keywords: Tetragrammaton; God's name; Judaism; Septuagint; Slavic translations of the Bible; Old Testament.

Assoc. Prof. Borislav Popov, PhD
South-West University "Neofit Rilski"
Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
e-mail: meristaf@abv.bg